

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

RUDY R. MANTHEI, M.D.,

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE
 INSURANCE COMPANY, et al.,

Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:13-cv-01218-APG-NJK

ORDER

Before the Court is the parties' Stipulated Protective Order (Docket No. 19), which the Court approved to facilitate discovery in this case. This order reminds counsel that there is a presumption of public access to judicial files and records. A party seeking to file a confidential document under seal must file a motion to seal and must comply with the Ninth Circuit's directives in *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006).

The Court has adopted electronic filing procedures, and with a few exceptions not applicable here, the Clerk of the Court no longer maintains paper records. Special Order 109 requires the Clerk of the Court to maintain the official files for all cases filed on or after November 7, 2005, in electronic form. The electronic record constitutes the official record of the court. Attorneys must file documents under seal using the Court's electronic filing procedures. *See* Local Rule 10-5(b). That rule provides:

Unless otherwise permitted by statute, rule or prior Court order, papers filed

1 with the Court under seal shall be accompanied by a motion for leave to file
2 those documents under seal, and shall be filed in accordance with the Court's
3 electronic filing procedures. If papers are filed under seal pursuant to prior
4 Court order, the papers shall bear the following notation on the first page,
5 directly under the case number: "FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO
6 COURT ORDER DATED ____." All papers filed under seal will
7 remain sealed until such time as the Court may deny the motion to seal or
8 enter an order to unseal them, or the documents are unsealed pursuant to
9 Local Rule.

10 *Id.* Documents filed under seal are not accessible to the public.

11 The Court has approved the blanket protective order to facilitate discovery exchanges. But
12 there has been no showing, and the Court has not found, that any specific documents are secret or
13 confidential. The parties have not provided specific facts supported by declarations or concrete
14 examples to establish that a protective order is required to protect any specific trade secret or other
15 confidential information pursuant to Rule 26(c) or that disclosure would cause an identifiable and
16 significant harm. The Ninth Circuit has held that there is a presumption of public access to judicial
17 files and records and that parties seeking to maintain the confidentiality of documents attached to
18 nondispositive motions must show good cause exists to overcome the presumption of public access.
19 *See Kamakana* 447 F.3d at 1179. Parties seeking to maintain the secrecy of documents attached to
20 dispositive motions must show compelling reasons sufficient to overcome the presumption of public
21 access. *Id.* at 1180.¹

22 If the sole ground for a motion to seal is that the opposing party (or non-party) has
23 designated a document as confidential, the opposing party (or non-party) shall file a declaration
24 establishing good cause for the sealing along with a proposed order, or shall withdraw the
25 designation. The declaration shall be filed within seven days of service on the opposing party (or
26 non-party) of the request for a sealing order. If the declaration is not filed as required, the Court may
27 order the document filed in the public record.

28 ¹ Additional information regarding the requirements for filing under seal can be found at *The
Vaccine Center LLC v. GlaxoSmithKline LLC*, 2013 U.S. Dist. Lexis 68298 (D. Nev. May 14, 2013)
(discussing, *inter alia*, the standards for sealing, standard for redaction rather than sealing entire
documents, and impact of the stipulated protective order on a motion to seal).

1 **IT IS ORDERED** that counsel shall comply with the requirements of Local Rule 10-5(b),
2 the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d 1172, and the procedures outlined above, with
3 respect to any documents filed under seal.

4 DATED: November 15, 2013

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8 NANCY J. KOPPE
9 United States Magistrate Judge
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